

Appl. No. 09/687,151
Amdt. dated August 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 7, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a content distributor, the method comprising:

receiving a first portion of the program at the user location, wherein the first portion is at least one eighth of the program;

storing the first portion of the program at the user location;

detecting a user request for the program after storage of the first portion; and

receiving a second portion of the program in response to the detecting the user request.

2. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising playing the first portion.

3. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 2, wherein the playing the first portion takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with the receiving the second portion.

4. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the detecting the user request comprises:

receiving a wireless request from a remote control; and

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processing the wireless request to determine a desired program.

5. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the program consists of the first portion and the second portion.

6. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the user location comprises a set top box.

7. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the first portion comprises storing the first portion on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that is proximate to the user location.

8. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of programs;

dividing each of the subset of programs into a respective first portion and a respective second portion; and

transmitting a plurality of respective first portions to the user location.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a content program to a user location, the method comprising:

determining a linear schedule of content programs wherein each content program comprises a first segment and a second segment;

storing a set of second segments remotely from the user location;

transmitting a first set of first segments to the user location, wherein the first segment is at least fifteen minutes in playback length;

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storing the first set of first segments at the user location; and
transmitting one of the second set of second segments to the user location after a request by a user.

10. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of the content programs comprises a commercial.

11. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, further comprising playing the first segment.

12. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 11, wherein the playing the first segment takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with the transmitting the respective second segment.

13. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the content program consists of the first segment and the second segment.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing a program from a content distributor to a location, the method comprising:

transmitting a first portion of the program to the location;

storing the first portion of the program at the location;

waiting for a user request of the program;

detecting the user request for the program; and

transmitting a second portion of the program in response to the detecting the user request, wherein the transmitting steps are performed with different media chosen from a group consisting of a multicast media or a singlecast media.

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15. (Original) The method for distributing the program from the content distributor to the location as recited in claim 14, further comprising transmitting a plurality of portions of the program in response to the detecting the user request wherein the second portion is one of the plurality of portions.

16. (Original) The method for distributing the program from the content distributor to the location as recited in claim 15, further comprising playing the first portion before the second portion.

17. (Original) The method for distributing the program from the content distributor to the location as recited in claim 16, wherein the playing the first portion takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with the transmitting the plurality of portions.

18. (Original) The method for distributing the program from the content distributor to the location as recited in claim 14, wherein the detecting the user request comprises:

receiving a wireless request from a remote control; and
processing the wireless request to determine a desired program.

19. (Original) The method for distributing the program from the content distributor to the location as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

downloading the first portion from a channel; and
downloading the second portion from the channel.

20. (Original) The method for distributing the program from the content distributor to the location as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of programs;

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dividing each of the subset of programs into a respective first portion and a respective second portion; and

transmitting a plurality of respective first portions to the location.

21. (New) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the first portion is at least one fourth of the program.

22. (New) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the first segment is at least thirty minutes in playback length.

23. (New) The method for distributing the program from the content distributor to the location as recited in claim 14, wherein the first-listed transmitting step is performed with a television channel media and the second-listed transmitting step is performed with a broadband network media.